United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh Security Message for U.S. Citizens Public Celebrations on Bengali New Year

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(April 13, 2015)

Bengali New Year is being celebrated on Tuesday, April 14th, 2015. With this celebration large crowd, rallies and parades are expected throughout Dhaka and across the country. These gatherings create an increased possibility of violence, civil unrest and criminal activity. In light of the recent execution and current period of heightened political tension, the U.S. Embassy recommends that U.S. citizens avoid all public celebrations that include large gatherings, regardless of theme.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh enroll in the <u>Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u> at <u>www.Travel.State.Gov.</u> STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State <u>Department's website</u>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information</u> for Bangladesh. For additional information, refer to our <u>Travelers Checklist</u>.

You can visit the U.S. Embassy Dhaka web page (dhaka.usembassy.gov) for up-to-date information on travel restrictions or call the Embassy directly at (88) (02) 5566-2000. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

The U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212 and is open Sunday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (88) (02) 5566-2000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka is (88) (02) 5566-2000 and press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Dhaka, Bangladesh